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(54) Title: **PROCESS FOR PREPARING CHIRAL AROMATIC α -HYDROXY KETONES USING 2-HYDROXY-3-OXOACID SYNTHASE**

(57) Abstract: A biotransformation process for preparing chiral aromatic -hydroxy ketones in high yields is described, using 2-hydroxy-3-oxoacid synthase, such as AHAS or TSAS. Optionally substituted arylaldehydes and -oxoacids react in this process to provide pure enantiomers, useful as synthons in the production of various drugs, an example being (R)-phenylacetyl carbinol.

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